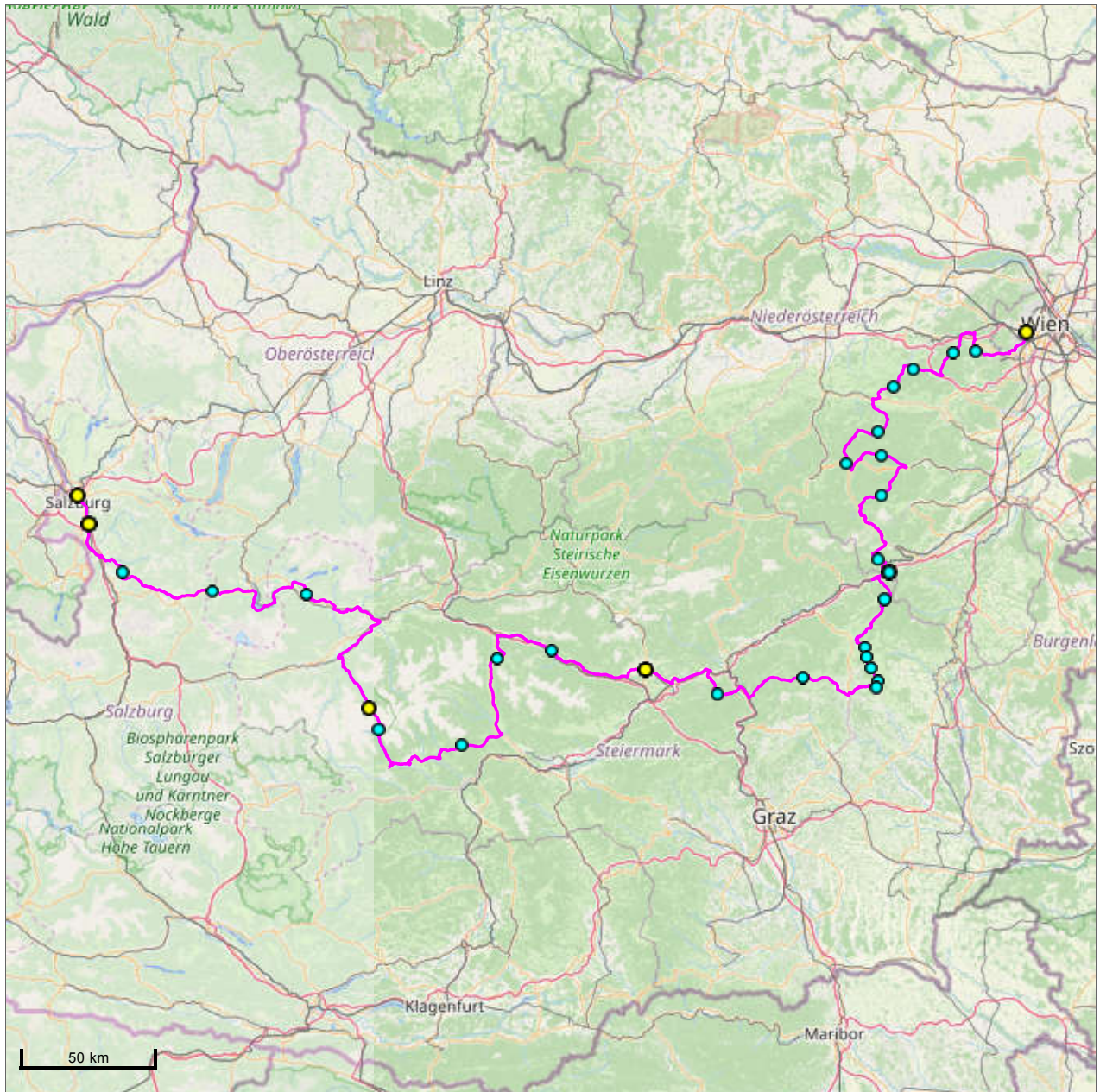
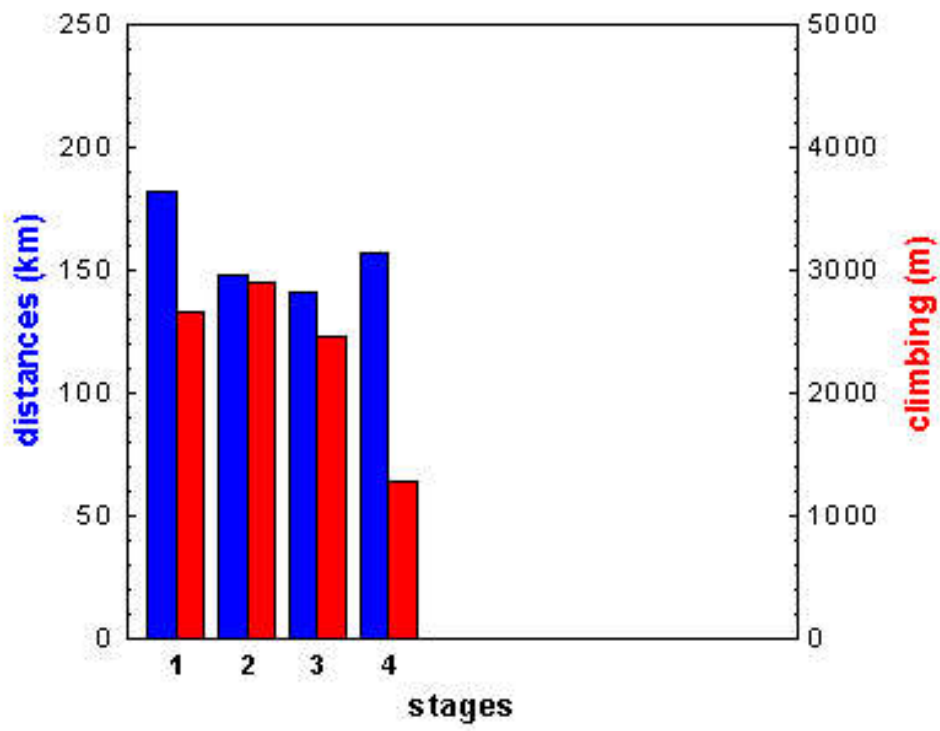


# Bicycle tour 2008, 25 - 29 June

Patrick Schleppe

stage	distance (km)	climbing (m)
Wien - Klammhöhe - Klostertaler Gscheid - Semmering	176	2740
Semmering - Pfaffensattel - Strassegg - Eisenpass - Gai	148	2900
Gai - Hohentauern - Hohegg - Sölkpass - St. Nikolai	141	2510
St. Nikolai - Radlingpass - Pass Gschütt - Elsbethen	157	1290
Elsbethen - Salzburg	11	0
<b>total</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>9440</b>





The Semmering railway near Adlitzgraben



Strassegg, side Breitenau



Sölketal



Pass Gschütt, west side



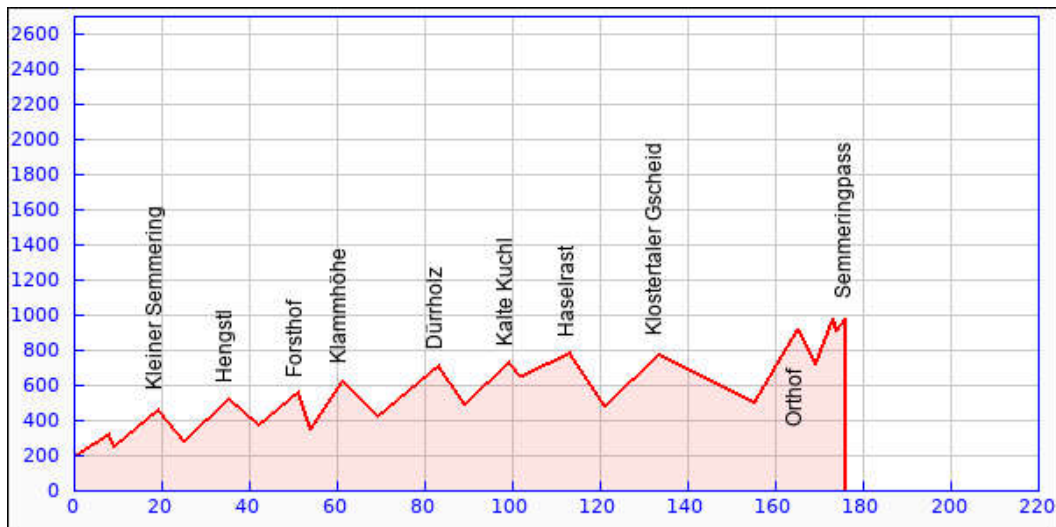
## Stage 1 (25 June 2008): Wien - Klammhöhe - Kloistertaler Gscheid - Semmering

I took advantage of a meeting in Vienna to start my tour 2008 from there, having taken the bicycle along when going there by train. I started early in the morning after the end of the meeting. I did not have to cross the whole city, but to ride out of Vienna was not easy and i had to ask several times how to get to Kalksburg. From there, it was much easier. I rode to Breitenfurt-West, then over **Kleiner Semmering** to the Vienna River. For a short distance, i went along this valley, where there was quite some traffic, but then it was quiet for the rest of the day. The next three small passes led me through the Wienerwald: first the **Hengstl**, then **Forsthof** and **Klammhöhe**.

The sky had been partly cloudy, but now it was clearing up as i was reaching Hainfeld. It was warm but not too much. Riding through Ramsau was not easy because the road was being rebuilt and the sidewalks were at places very narrow. Nevertheless, i could continue towards **Dürrholzer Kreuz**, then down to Hölle (no, in spite of the name it was not hell). A very gentle climb led me south to **Kalte Kuchl**, where i joined my 2005 route for a short stretch. This time, however, i did not ride over the Rohrer Sattel but over a parallel pass, **Haselrast**. It was a very nice little road and an easy climb from the west side (the other way would be markedly harder). This, however, was leading me eastwards, which was not really my main direction. Thus, in Gutenstein, i turned right to the Kloistertal valley and to the **Kloistertaler Gscheid**. The next descent, into the Höllental, had again nothing to do with hell. There were many curves in this narrow valley. As it

was opening to a plain near Reichenau, i went right to Prein, and then left on a small road towards Semmering. My counter was already showing close to 170 km, but i did not mind to ride up one more time. I just did not yet know that it would be up (to **Orthof**) and down and up and down and up till i would reach the **Semmering pass**, where i could find an hotel.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Hietzing (Wien)	0	190	
Mauer	8	320	130
Kalksburg	9	250	
<b>Kleiner Semmering</b>	19	460	210
Untertullnerbach	25	280	
<b>Hengstl</b>	35	520	240
Klausen-Leopoldsdorf	42	370	
<b>Forsthof</b>	51	560	190
Laaben	54	350	
<b>Klammhöhe</b>	61	620	270
Hainfeld	69	420	
<b>Dürrholz</b>	83	710	290
Hölle	89	490	
<b>Kalte Kuchl</b>	99	730	240
Gegend	102	650	
<b>Haselrast</b>	113	780	130
Gutenstein	121	480	
<b>Kloistertaler Gscheid</b>	133	770	290
Hirschwang	155	500	
<b>Orthof</b>	165	920	420
Adlitzgraben (Breitenstein)	169	720	
Semmering-Kurort	173	980	260
Semmering	174	910	
<b>Semmeringpass</b>	176	980	70
<b>total</b>	<b>176</b>		<b>2740</b>

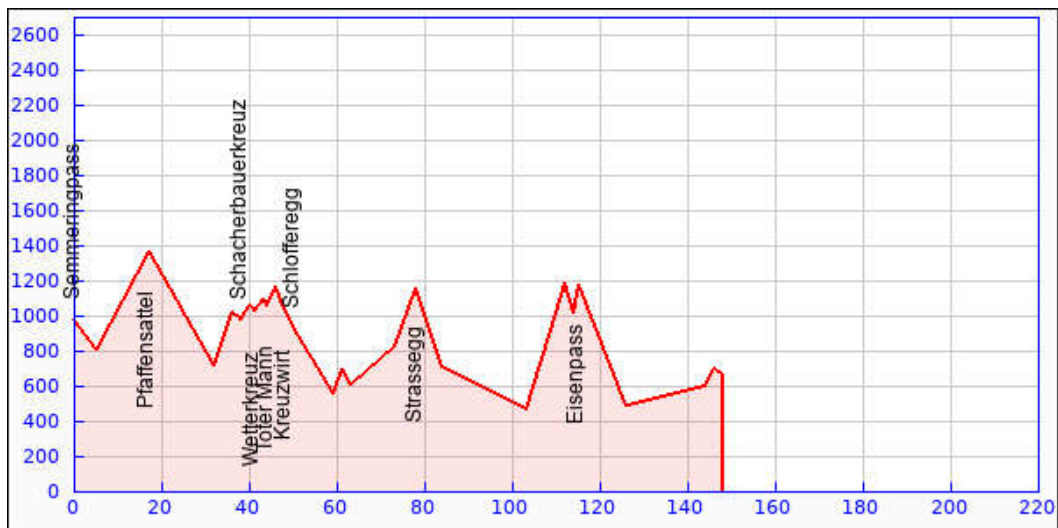


## Stage 2 (26 June 2008): Semmering - Pfaffensattel - Strassegg - Eisenpass - Gai

From Semmering, i went only a few kilometres down to the valley before turning left to [Pfaffensattel](#). This climb was first very gentle, but then steep. The road was in bad state. Fortunately, the other side was better and i could ride fast down to Rettenegg and Ratten. From there, i went up to Auf der Halt and followed the mountain crest down to [Reisenegger](#). I remained along this crest to the [Toter Mann](#) pass, but this was only an unpaved forest road. Still along the same crest, i came down to [Kreuzwirt](#) and, on a good road again, to [Schlofferegg](#). The descent to Birkfeld was very nice. I climbed in the town of Birkfeld to the other side of the valley and took the road to [Strassegg](#). Up to Gasen, it was an easy climb, but later it became steeper. There was little traffic and the temperature just above 20° allowed me to enjoy this climb. The descent to Breitenau was easy and quite fast. Near Pernegg, i had to ride on the main road and the traffic was just a continuous line of cars and trucks.

Fortunately, this was only for a short time. On my map, there was the [Eisenpass](#) waiting for me. Not clear from the map, however, was the state of the road, first narrow but perfect, then unpaved but easy, and finally very steep (more than 15%). If i had known, i would probably have chosen to ride over Bruck, in spite of the traffic; but i was already on the way and did not want to go back. Then i even took the wrong way at a crossing without signs, but this was already close to the pass and i finally found it, with its small chapel. The descent was also unpaved and i could not pay too much attention to the nice landscape. Reaching Oberaich (and good roads again), i was lucky enough to find tail winds to Leoben and further to St. Peter-Freienstein. This allowed my average speed to recover a bit. On a shortcut road between St. Peter and Kammer, i found a room for the night at Gai. Later, for the third evening in a row, there were thunderstorms.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
<b>Semmeringpass</b>	0	980	
Jauern	5	810	
<b>Pfaffensattel</b>	17	1370	560
Ratten	32	720	
Steinhöf	36	1020	300
<b>Schacherbauerkreuz</b>	38	980	
Auf der Halt	40	1060	80
<b>Wetterkreuz</b>	41	1030	
Schneeberghimmel	43	1100	70
<b>Toter Mann</b>	44	1060	
Wildwiesen	46	1170	110
<b>Kreuzwirt</b>	48	1040	
<b>Schlofferegg</b>	50	940	
Gschaid	59	560	
Birkfeld	61	700	140
Jägerleiten	63	610	
Gasen	73	830	220
<b>Strassegg</b>	78	1160	330
Hattenbacher (Breitenau)	84	710	
Zlatten	103	470	
Forstgut Eisenpass	110	1020	550
Zehnerhalt	112	1190	170
Forstgut Eisenpass	114	1020	
<b>Eisenpass</b>	115	1180	160
Oberaich	126	490	
St. Peter-Freienstein	144	600	110
Edlinghöhe	146	700	100
Edling (Gai)	148	660	
<b>total</b>	<b>148</b>		<b>2900</b>



## Stage 3 (27 June 2008): Gai - Hohentauern - Hohegg - Sölkpass - St. Nikolai

The sky was cloudy and the forecasts were for some rain showers as i left Gai. I was first riding towards the Liesing valley. Because of the parallel highway, there was only little traffic. The road was barely climbing but, nevertheless, it brought me to a pass: [Schoberpass](#). In the descent, i followed the valley only down to Trieben. There, after buying a drink, i took the road to [Hohentauern](#). It was first very steep, then more or less flat (but a new road was being built with a more constant slope). Later, the road was steep but not excessively. In the cool morning air, the climb did not pose any problem, nor did the long descent to St. Oswald. Then i turned right towards [Hohegg](#), a pass easy to climb, but a bit higher than the previous one. Dark clouds were gathering and, even if it was noon, there was barely enough light to take a picture of the Gellsee. As i was turning right towards Oberwölz, it began to rain. I hurried to the next farm and protected myself under a roof.

Fortunately, the rain lasted only a quarter of an hour and then i could continue towards Oberwölz. The road was going several times up and down. I stopped again in Schöder to drink something before attacking the [Sölkpass](#). In the first half, the slope was very irregular. The second half was more constant: just steep. In the last few kilometres, i experienced strong and cool headwind. Arriving at the pass, i knew that my wind jacket would not be useless. I did not yet know that it would soon serve also as rain jacket. I could at least start the descent on a steep but dry road, but i came into a thunderstorm before reaching St. Nikolai. The ride became wet and cold, everything but enjoyable. I preferred to stop as soon as possible. After the cold rain, the warm shower in the guesthouse was a great comfort.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Edling (Gai)	0	660	
Glasdorf	4	720	60
Seiz	7	640	
<b>Schoberpass</b>	29	850	210
Trieben	45	700	
Kalvarienberg	48	940	240
Brodjäger	51	1030	90
<b>Hohentauern</b>	53	1280	250
Draxler	57	1230	
Seiser	58	1260	30
Timmerer (Möderbrugg)	75	900	
<b>Hohegg</b>	89	1330	430
Oberwölz	100	830	
Vogelbichl	108	1090	260
St. Peter am Kammersberg	111	850	
Schöder	117	900	50
Gröbler	122	1150	250
Grabnerhütte	126	1250	100
<b>Sölkpass</b>	132	1790	540
St. Nikolai	141	1130	
<b>total</b>	<b>141</b>		<b>2510</b>

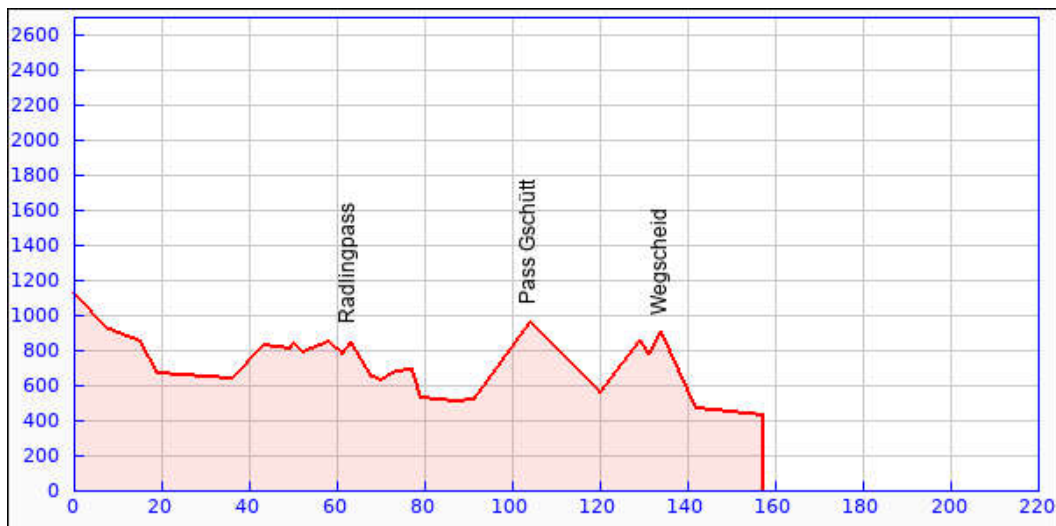


## Stage 4 (28 June 2008): St. Nikolai - Radlingpass - Pass Gschütt - Elsbethen

The sky had largely cleared up during the night and i could look forward to a dry stage. Humidity, however, had probably found a way into the axis of my rear wheel: after a few kilometres of descent, it began to make an ominous noise. Obviously something for the next service. Presently, i just had to endure this noise... which receded and disappeared later the same day. Except for this technical problem, the ride down to the Enns valley was easy. At Trautenfels, i came again across the route of my [2005 tour](#). The ride over the Hinterberg and Bad Mitterndorf was more enjoyable than three years earlier: the weather was nice and i followed more closely the signs for cycling paths, which cost me some detours but kept me out of the traffic. Near Pichl, i took the small road to the right, leading me out of the main valley and to the [Radlingpass](#). From there, the descent brought me to Bad Aussee, where i just crossed the town, riding to the west along the Koppentraun River. The road did not follow exactly the river, going steep up, then almost flat and finally very steep down to Obertraun. At the highest point, there was a sign indicating "Koppen Pass 690 m", but it is not a real pass in the geographical sense of a crossing between crest and valley lines.

Arriving in Obertraun, i followed the road to Halstatt around the Halstatt Lake. There is a tunnel to drive around this town, but the bicycles are led along the small streets close to the shore. There were many tourists around. After Halstatt, i continued first along the lake, then turned left (and up) to Gosau. From there, there was a short but steep climb, and i reached [Pass Gschütt](#). After the descent, i did not follow the main road climbing to the other side of the valley. Instead, i followed the stream (Lammer). Further, at another place named Pichl, i took the small and nice road up to St. Koloman, with [Wegscheid](#) as the last pass of this tour. After the last pass came obviously the last descent, which led me to the town of Hallein. Then i followed the bicycle path along the Salzach River. At Elsbethen, near Salzburg, i stopped at a hostelry directly at the bike path and at the river.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
St. Nikolai	0	1130	
Fleiss	8	920	
Freibacher	15	850	
Stein an der Enns	19	670	
Trautenfels	36	640	
Klachau	43	830	190
Graben	49	810	
Lukas	50	840	30
Neuhofen	52	790	
Obersdorf	58	850	60
Äussere Kainisch	61	780	
<a href="#">Radlingpass</a>	63	850	70
Bad Aussee	68	650	
Unterkainisch	70	630	
Planerwald	73	680	50
Koppenpass	77	690	10
Koppenrast	79	530	
Hallstatt	87	510	
Gosauzwang	91	520	10
<a href="#">Pass Gschütt</a>	104	960	440
Voglau	120	560	
Aschengut	129	860	300
Grubach	131	780	
<a href="#">Wegscheid</a>	134	910	130
Vigaun	142	470	
Elsbethen	157	430	
<b>total</b>	<b>157</b>		<b>1290</b>



## Stage 5 (29 June 2008): Elsbethen - Salzburg

For the last day, there were only few kilometres left to reach Salzburg. I simply took the bicycle path along the Salzach River, with only a small detour on the left shore. From Salzburg i had a reservation for me and one for the bicycle in the train to Zurich. This tour had not been very long, but it had brought me through nice landscapes and on roads mostly with little traffic.

	distance (km)	altitude (m)	climbing (m)
Elsbethen	0	430	
Glasenbach	3	430	
Nonntal (Salzburg)	8	420	
Salzburg	11	420	
<b>total</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>0</b>

